The Comstock Communicator

October 2009

A monthly publication of Comstock Christian Reformed Church



Comstock CRC Council Minutes

September 15, 2009

The meeting began with Todd Triemstra reading from I Corinthians 3:6-9, Ephesians 4:11-16, and the book *Deliberate Church*.

Here are some highlights from the meeting.

1. A quote for replacement of two furnaces and an air conditioner was discussed. The motion was made and approved to replace two furnaces and an air conditioner.

2. We spent a good amount of time reviewing how both elders and deacons are fulfilling their roles. Pastor Ben led us in a discussion about our call as leaders. We discussed what the strengths and weaknesses of both offices are at this time. Each office had an opportunity to critique each other and themselves. The suggestions were put down on paper for discussion at the next meetings for elder/deacons.

3. The process of selecting the slate of nominees for the office of elder and deacon were discussed for clarity and ease of making the nominations. Prayer was led by Todd T. before the process began and we went through the process. Each nominee will receive a letter notifying them of their nomination and if accepted their name will be put in the hat for drawing by lot at the annual congregational meeting in December.

4. Pastor Ben gave a report of the recent Classis meeting, which is the regional gathering of Christian Reformed churches. At the meeting, candidate Ben Bowater, church planter at the Paw Paw CRC church plant, Red Arrow Ministries, sustained his examination to be admitted as a Minister of the Word in the CRC. His ordination service was last Sunday morning, Sept. 27. We praised God for supplying his church with gifted leaders!

Submitted by Howard Nash, Clerk

Our new Logo



In the last Communicator our new logo was revealed. We have started using it on our mailings and bulletins. It has stirred up some conversations as people interpret the art. Here are a few comments;

"*To me it represents the blood of Christ"*

1 Peter 1:18-19 You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish of defect.

" I think it looks like a scribble from a kids crayon"

Acts2: 39 "The promise is to you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Matt: 13-15 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"

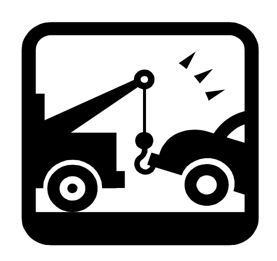
"From a distance it looks like a heart"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

"I thought it looked like an EKG line, you know … showing the activity of our heart."

Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.

So does the new logo mean one of these, or all of these?



CASH FOR CLUNKERS . . .

I QUALIFY

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR . . .

If my body were a car; this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish, and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus, and it's especially hard to see thinks up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it one was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It take me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it—

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or laugh, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires. CASH FOR CLUNKERS. . . I QUALIFY—How about YOU?



It's that time of year again

Trunk-n-Treat

You may be asking what is Trunk-n-Treat? On October 31, 2009 we will line our cars up along the drive way to Merrill Park in Comstock. We then open our car trunks, vans, or pickup tailgates and hand out candy to the neighborhood children. We also hand out a treat to the grownups along with an invitation to our church. It is a great way to get to know the kids of the community. You can even decorate your trunk and dress up in a nonviolent costume.

Will you please sign up to help YPS hand out candy to the neighborhood children, and invitations to Church to their parents'. It is a great time.

We will meet at Merrill Park in Comstock at 5:50. We will hand out candy from 6:00 to 7:00. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. If you forget to sign up come anyway. And remember to bring lots of wrapped candy. See you there!!!

Take me out to the ball game; Take me out to the show…

Come Root, root, root, for the YPS team. Council it's one, two, three strikes your out at the ole ball game.

Come watch us play. YPS has challenged the council to a softball game on Sat. Oct 24th at Merrill Park in Comstock. Game starts at 2:00. No rain date as of yet. Hot dogs and chips will be served around 4:00. Come to see who is the gracious winner, and who will be the loser. And as always it's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game. See ya all there.

What's New in the Library

It's October already, and as the flowers fade, more and more pumpkins will be popping up all over the place, perhaps even on your kitchen table alongside a carving knife! If you are among the many families that enjoy making Jack-O-Lanterns, your little ones ages



3 and up are sure to enjoy **The Pumpkin Gospel**, a fun board book by *Mary Manz Simon*. The catchy verses and bright pictures show how God cleans us up and makes us new, just as we clean out the pumpkin and give him a new face. There are short Bible verses to correspond with each page. Delightful!

New Books for Grown-ups:

The Five Love Languages *by Gary Chapman.* You may think you are showing your spouse that you love them, but if their "love language" is different from yours, they may not be getting the message, and vice versa. There are actually five specific languages of love, and people have learned to speak and understand one primary language, often not the same one their spouse has learned, which can lead to frustration and misunderstanding. This book can help clear that up!

Intervention , a new thriller by *Terri Blackstock.* Barbara Covington has one more chance to save her daughter from a devastating addiction, by staging an invention. But when 18-year-old Emily disappears on the way to drug treatment – and her interventionist is found dead at the airport – Barbara enters her darkest nightmare of all . . .

The Missing *by Bev Lewis.* Book two in the new series, "Seasons of Grace" (we have Book one, The Secret, in our library as well).

Two more *"Tales From Grace Chapel Inn"* – **The Way We Were** and **Eyes On The Prize**. Follow the latest "doings" of the 3 Howard sisters, who run a Bed & Breakfast in the charming town of Acorn Hill, and you can bask in the satisfying and heartwarming stories that transpire.

Book Review - "The 5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman

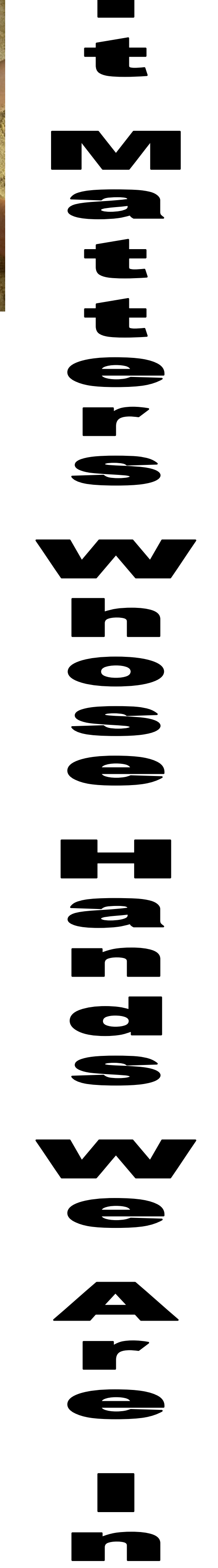
I first read "The 5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman about 15 years ago. The idea that people relate to one another through different 'languages'; has intrigued me ever since and have observed over this time that there really IS something to the idea.

We have all met people who appreciate kind, encouraging words while others are more delighted to receive a helping hand and yet others thrill to a gift, a hug or 'hanging out together'. This book can help you understand the mis-match of communication styles between you and your spouse but I believe it can be applied to communication between any two people. Want to determine you own 'Love' language? Take the quiz in the back of the book.

Think of how much better we could relate and minister to one another within the church and community if we used their love language?

I have also read "The 5 Languages of Apology" and "God Speaks Your Love Language" by the same author and highly recommend them.

by Tina Slager





A basketball in my hands is worth about $20.
A basketball in Lebron James' hands
Is worth about $25 Million.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about $15.
A baseball in Derek Jeter's hands
Is worth about $22 Million.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
A tennis racket in Roger Federer's hands
Is a Wimbledon Championship.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hand will keep away a wild animal.
A rod in Moses' hands
Will part the mighty sea.
It depends who hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.
A sling shot in David's hands
Is a mighty weapon.
It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands
Is a couple of fish sandwiches.
Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands
Will feed thousands.
It depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.
Nails in Jesus' hands
Will produce salvation for the entire world.
It depends whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears
Your hopes, your dreams, your families
And all your relationships into God's hands
Because as you can see
It matters whose hands they're in.

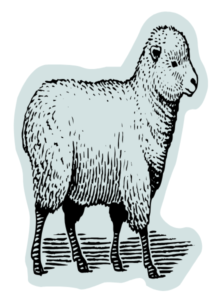
Author Unknown

Vision Team Update from ***Judy Joling***

The Vision Team most recently met on September 16th. Our focus was to compile a list of questions that will be directed to the chairpersons of our various programs: Worship; Fellowship; First Impressions; Building; Education; Evangelism; and Boosters. With these questionnaires, we will begin the process of ministry program evaluation. Members of the Vision Team plan to meet with representatives from these church programs beginning in November. A questionnaire for the entire congregation will also be forthcoming.

On September 17th, Vision Team members had an opportunity to attend their choice of workshops that took place at Calvary CRC in Holland. Some attended *Turning Your Church Around,* while others learned about *Great Commission Churches,* and *Feeding the Children.* It was an informative evening that offered valuable instruction, provided resources, and left us feeling both inspired and challenged.

Again, the Vision Team requests your prayers and encouragement.



Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little Lamb, who lived before His birth
Self-existent Son of God, from heav'n He come to space earth.

Mary had a little Lamb - He sleeps in yonder stall.
Virgin born, He came in love, to save man from the fall.

Mary had a little Lamb; obedient Son of God.
Everywhere the Father's led, His feet were sure to trod.

Mary had a little Lamb. He came to set men free.
Scorned, rejected, crucified - He died on Calvary.

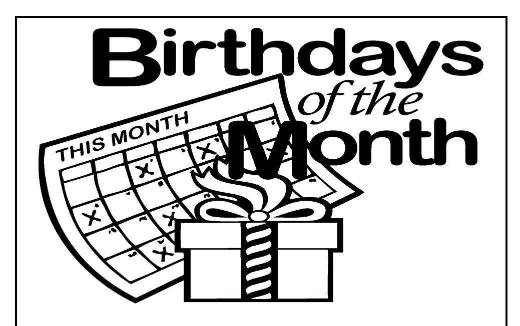
Mary had a little Lamb. Men placed Him in the grave -
Thinking they were with Him. To death He was no slave!

Mary had a little Lamb, ascended now is he;
Beside His Father's holy throne, our advocate to be.

Mary had the little Lamb—returning as foretold -
The world will watch in wonder, and the heavens will unfold.

When our Savior comes again to reign on earth from Zion,
It won't be as silent Lamb, but as a roaring lion.





2 Roger Selles
4 Jerry Poortenga
8 Helen Karsten
10 Becky Smith
11 Betty Schaap
12 John Dykstra
14 Courtney Kersten
16 Emily Greenhalgh
18 Eric Selles
20 Joanne Karsten
Grace Slager
21 Dave Joling
Joyce Cramer
25 Karen Triemstra
30 Dodie Nash
31 Bev VanOosterum

The Communicator is published by and for the members and friends of Comstock CRC.

Editor: Lisa Bosch

Library: Thea McNeilage

The November issue will come out on November 1, all articles must be submitted by Monday, October 25.

October Schedules

NURSERY

	AM	PM
10/4	Leah & Seth Brower	Val Denton
10/11	Mike & Karen Tiesman Family	Joanne Karsten
10/18	Todd & Karen Triemstra Family	Thea McNeilage
10/25	Don & Barb VanderLugt Family	Lisa Bosch

OFFERINGS

	AM	PM
10/4	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Vineyard Outreach Ministry
10/11	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Missions
10/18	General Fund/Benevolent Fund	Christian Education
10/25	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Home Missions

ACCOMPANISTS

	AM	PM
10/4	Linda French	Joy Koning
10/11	Kay Triemstra	Anne Barnes
10/18	Kay Triemstra	Barb Hassing
10/25	Kay Triemstra	Linda French

LIBRARIANS

10/4 Esther Post
10/11 Esther Post
10/18 Muriel Cramer
10/25 Muriel Cramer

GREETERS

AM: Steve French & MaryLee Gosnell
PM: Rich & Esther Post

WELCOME CENTER

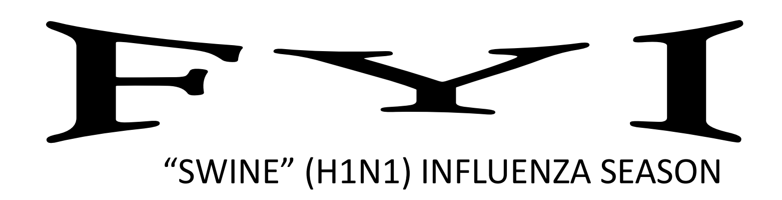
10/4 Julie Smit & Jan Larkin
10/11 Mike & Karen Tiesman
10/18 Dwain & Becky Cramer
10/25 Todd & Karen Triemstra

SONG SERVICE LEADERS

10/4 Scott Brower
10/11 Walt Cramer
10/18 Pete DenHartigh
10/25 MaryLee Gosnell

TECH TEAM

10/4 Jim & Tina Slager
10/11 Mark & Matt Terpstra
10/18 Scott & Seth Brower
10/25 Jim & Tina Slager



"SWINE" (H1N1) INFLUENZA SEASON

- 1500 Students sick at Stanford University in the first weeks of school
- 2000 Students sick at Washington University in the first weeks of school
- Tents set up outside of ER's in the south to treat the patients that may have influenza
- Young adults and children seriously ill in hospitals with respiratory failure

Will we be seeing these occur here in Michigan? The *World Health Organization* declared swine (H1N1)flu to be a global pandemic June 11, 2009 for the first time in 41 years. There are over 30,000 cases reported worldwide in 74 countries. Although the 'alert' has been raised, the expectations are that it will be moderate in its severity in countries with more resources. We may never really know actual concrete numbers. The 'quick test' for swine flu (H1N1) is not reliable and the more reliable test takes longer and is more expensive, therefore, only those individuals that are seriously ill may be getting tested.

What are the symptoms? Fever, extreme tiredness, lack of appetite and coughing, the same as influenza. There can be additional symptoms of runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

What can you do?

The best form of prevention is the vaccine. That means for this 'flu' season, the recommendations are 2 shots. The traditional influenza shot is currently available and the swine flu (H1N1) shot should be available in the later portion of October. Recommendations for shots:

* Influenza:
  1. Children 6 months through the age of 19
  2. Adults 50 years and older
  3. Pregnant women
  4. People with chronic conditions (ask your physician if your condition qualifies)
  5. Healthcare workers
  6. Anyone living or caring for children under the age of 6 months.
* Swine flu (H1N1) Are the same as the above, although they extend the age from 6 months through the age of 24. They also recommend that anyone ages 24-64 with chronic medical conditions also get vaccinated. Swine flu (H1N1) does not appear to affect, as seriously , older adults as it does the younger adult population.

Anything else you can do?

- Wash your hands: It's the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infection, of any kind.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, sneeze or cough into your elbow area instead of your hands
- Avoid close contact : when you are sick, stay away from others, when others are sick, keep your distance
- Stay home when you are sick
- Practice other good health habits: sleep, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious foods, etc…

*There are more specific recommendations and indications, please contact your physician's office for more information.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BEN

I was excited to get into the fall and have my first go-round with it here at Comstock. I have been pleased to see the excitement for ministry here. I thank all of you who are taking leadership and teaching positions. Remember that what we do here has eternal significance. I also want to encourage those of you who might not be involved in a ministry to find a place to plug in and begin investing eternally somehow in God's kingdom. Finally, I thank you for caring for one another. This is a vital part of being a church and I have been encouraged by you all. May we continue to extend this care to each other and newcomers who walk through our doors.

Here are a few tidbits about things going on.

Mission Time—This is a head's up that our missionaries, Ben and Brenda Michelson, will be visiting us on Sunday morning, November 22. They will report on what God has been doing with their ministry in Mali. Be sure to put this on your calendar. They will have a large part in the morning service and will also share time with us through the Sunday school hour.

Adult Sunday School—We've had a great turn-out for the adult Sunday school class on Genesis. I have appreciated the desire to investigate the Scripture and also the questions that have been raised. If you haven't come, but would like too, feel free to jump in even now. You are always welcome.

First Impressions —The First Impressions team continues to explore how best to help visitors feel at home in our fellowship. There are two things we're working on right now.

1. First, we are restarting the Fellowship Pads that used to be passed. We see this as a better way for us as a church to get to know visitors. They have been placed in the pews starting this week. During the offering, I will invite them to passed and we ask that everyone fill them out to create a hospitable atmosphere for visitors. If you have a visitor in your row, please refer to the pad for their name and then introduce yourself to them following the service.

2. Second, yesterday hosted a meal for those who have been visiting with us. Members of council and the First Impressions team joined with these folks for a wonderful night of fellowship, food, and fun. We look to do these on a regular basis as the need arises. But with this, we encourage the entire church to be open to inviting one another, and especially the visitors, over to your house to be a community of hospitality.

Profession of Faith—I am willing and excited to host a profession of faith class for the youth of the church. If your child is interested in pursuing profession of faith or just wants to know more about it, please contact me. Remember, you do not need to be a certain age to make profession of faith. If you have questions and concerns, please contact me.

And finally, a quote for reflection from a wonderful author Eugene Peterson from his book, *Living the Resurrection* as he calls us to consider the high calling of our walk of faith.

> *"The land of the living is dangerous country. A lot goes wrong. There is a lot of trouble brewing out there and in here. Resurrection takes place in the country of death. The land of the living is obviously not a vacation paradise. It's more like a war zone."*

In Christ's Love—Pastor Ben